

RIVER PHOENIX

It's still hard to take in. On October 30, River Phoenix was in the middle of production on the forthcoming *Dark Blood*, and had enough other projects in the pipeline to keep him busy until the year 2000. By lunchtime on October 31 he was dead, having overdosed on a lethal combination of heroin and cocaine at the ultra-hip Viper Room on Sunset Boulevard, and the Phoenix cult kicked into overdrive almost immediately, with videos of his last available finished work, *My Own Private Idaho*, selling out across the US. Somewhere, though, in amongst all the mess, the memory of a fine young actor remains.

